

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 271441Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2159

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS CARACAS 2283

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, VE

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: ORINOCO RIVER-CARIBBEAN CANAL

1. THE EXCAVATION OF A WATERWAY TO LINK THE ORINOCO RIVER AND THE CARIBBEAN HAS BEEN DISCUSSED FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST. ON TWO RECENT OCCASIONS, THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS HAS STATED THAT THIS CANAL WOULD NOT BE BUILT, AT LEAST NOT UNTIL THE YEAR 2000.

2. A GROUP OF PRIVATE PROMOTERS COMPOSED OF PROMINENT LOCAL BUSINESSMEN HAS NOT PRESENTED A PROJECT TO MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WHICH IS TO BE FINANCED BY THE PROJECT'S PROMOTERS AND THE MUNICIPALITIES WHICH STAND TO BENEFIT FROM THE PROJECT. ACCORDING TO THE PROMOTERS, THE CANAL WOULD CONNECT THE ORINOCO AT APPROXIMATELY 100 KILOMETERS EAST OF CAICARA DEL ORINOCO, RUN ROUGHLY NORTH-EAST AND WOULD OPEN ON THE CARIBBEAN COAST NEAR BARCELONA.

3. THE CANAL WOULD BE 386 KILOMETERS LONG, 36 METERS WIDE AND 12 METERS DEEP.

4. ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY CONSIDERS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS CANAL UNLIKELY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE RAILROAD PROGRAM WITH WHICH IT WOULD BE IN DIRECT COMPETITION, THE RE-AWAKENING OF A PREVIOUSLY REJECTED PROJECT IS BEING REPORTED FOR THE RECORD.

SHLAUDEMAM

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Message Attributes

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